policy environment in which women's concern for greater involvement in all fields and at all levels is reflected and addressed. Government also implements a number of women-specific and women related schemes for the health, education and economic empowerment of women.

**Rising Cost of text books and exercise books**

1936. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the rising cost of text books and exercise books is one of the deterrents to children belonging to poor families to join schools to get education in the country; and

(b) if so, what action Government have taken or propose to take to reduce the prices of books and text books so as to bring them within the reach of common man in the country so as to enable them to send their children to school?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA): (a) and (b) The NCERT continues to provide low priced textbooks as the sale price of its textbooks are determined as per the approved pricing formula based on no profit. The prices of textbooks for classes I to XII are Rs. 20/- or less and the prices of textbooks for Classes IX to XII continue to be competitive when compared with these textbooks brought out and marketed by private publishing houses. The NCERT thus has provided a benchmark of textbooks at affordable levels.

Besides this, some of the State Government are providing free/ subsidised textbooks to students upto certain level of education or for certain categories, e.g. SC, ST, girls, etc. State-wise details regarding provision of Free/ Subsidised Textbooks as available in this Department is annexed as Statement.

**Statement**

*State-wise Details Regarding Provision of Free Text Books*

| Sl. No. | States Providing Primary Classes (I-V) | Free Textbooks Upper Primary Classes (I-VIII) | Remarks |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1. | Andhra Pradesh | — | All students |
| 2. | — | Arunachal Pradesh | All students |
| 3. | — | Assam | All students |
| 4. | Bihar | — | 50% subsidy (all students) |
| 5. | — | Goa | 70% subsidy to EBC |
| 6. | — | Gujarat | SC/ST/OBC/EBC |
| 7. | — | Haryana | SC/BC/OBC |
| 8. | — | Himachal Pradesh | SC/ST/OBC |
| 9. | Jammu & Kashmir | — | Depending on economic status of parents |
| 10. | Karnataka | — | All students (I-IV) & SC/ST (I-VIII) |
| 11. | Kerala | — | For Class I only |
| 12. | Madhya Pradesh | — | SC/ST (III-V) |

| Sl. No. | States Providing Primary Classes (I-V) | Free Textbooks Upper Primary Classes (I-VIII) | Remarks |
|---|---|---|---|
| 13. | Maharashtra | — | All (I-IV) in 103 EB Blocks and (I-VIII) for BC |
| 14. | Orissa | — | SC/ST |
| 15. | — | Punjab | SC/ST Girls |
| 16. | — | Rajasthan | All upto (I-V) & Girls (I-VIII) |
| 17. | — | Sikkim | All studens |
| 18. | — | Tamil Nadu | Poor students |
| 19. | West Bengal | — | All students |
| 20. | A&N Islands | — | For tribal students |
| 21. | — | D&N Haveli | SC/ST/LIG students |
| 22. | — | Daman & Diu | All students |
| 23. | Delhi | — | On the basis of parental income upto Rs. 750/- p.m. |
| 24. | — | Lakshadweep | All students |
| 25. | — | Pondicherry | Poor students |

Abbreviations

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| SC | : | Scheduled Caste |
| ST | : | Scheduled Tribe |
| OBC | : | Other Backward Class |
| EBC | : | Economically Backward Class |
| BC | : | Backward Class |
| EBB | : | Educationally Backward Blocks |
| LIG | : | Lowet Income Group |

**Recommendations of Shukla Committee**

1937. SHRI S. MUTHU MANI: Will the Minister HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Shukla Committee set up by the All India Council of Technical Education (AICTE) has recommended higher pay an better service conditions for the teachers of technical institutions;

(b) if so, how many people will be benefited if the report is implemented; and

(c) the action taken by the Ministry to implement the said report?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA): (a) to (c) AICTE has not yet approached the Government of India in the matter of Shukla Committee Report.

**Popularity of open School**

1938. SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the open schools are getting popular day-by-day;

(b) whether Government proposes to set up State open schools in various States; and

(c) if so, the details of the plan of Government in this regard for the Ninth Plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA): (a) The continuous rising trend of enrolment of students and the network of Accredited Institutions (AIs) of the National Open